

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Medical Service	DATE DISTR.	27 February 1953
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED] 25X1C	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED] 25X1A	REFERENCE NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
		REFERENCES	[REDACTED] 25X1X

1. All hospitals and pharmacies in Bulgaria have been nationalized. Doctors, although not organized into cooperatives, are obliged to work six hours a day in the State hospitals. They are permitted to examine, but not to treat, patients in their homes in their off-duty hours. Medical treatment in the hospitals is free; private examinations cost approximately 250 leva (old currency).
2. Because of the shortage of hospitals, only very urgent cases are admitted. To receive medical treatment, a patient must go to the hospital and receive a numbered ticket. First priority tickets are given to those who present a special request for treatment from a factory or other government establishment. All those who have such a ticket are examined first and those with second priority tickets are examined later, on the same day if time permits, or the following day if there is no time on the first day.
3. Medicine can be purchased from State pharmacies with a prescription issued by a hospital doctor. Small quantities of medicines such as penicillin and streptomycin can be purchased on the black market from those who possessed a supply before medical facilities were taken over by the State.¹

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment: Informant stated that this is the only black market in existence in Bulgaria.

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